



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Thomas J. Dagley
Inspector General

MEMORANDUM

August 13, 2010

TO: Nancy Floreen, President
County Council

FROM: Thomas J. Dagley
Inspector General

SUBJECT: Retirement from Montgomery County Employment

The purpose of this memorandum is to advise you that, after serving as the inspector general since April 2005, I plan to retire from Montgomery County employment no later than December 3, 2010. This action will provide a newly elected Council the opportunity to appoint a new inspector general to continue developing the Office of Inspector General (OIG) as a key component of the County's governance system.

Over the past five years, independent OIG evaluations of Council-funded programs and activities have impacted more than \$40 million in taxpayer dollars. Our work includes an elementary school capital project, a MNCPPC athletic field lighting project, road and water main construction with proposed development district funding, employee overtime compensation, payments to health and human services contractors, disability retirement, and the County's tuition assistance program. A key success factor was implementing a fraud hotline in 2006 that had the support of County leaders as a tool for individuals to confidentially report fraud, waste, and abuse.

The OIG concept was strengthened in 2009 when an amendment to Article 29 of the Maryland Code clarified the authority of the Council and its offices to audit WSSC records. In 2009, the Council also strengthened the OIG's basis of legal authority by amending the County's OIG law and personnel regulations to provide independent legal counsel and increase whistleblower protection. Notwithstanding these improvements, it is important to note that the OIG concept is, in many ways, in the early stages of deployment. The concept has not been embraced by all County officials, adversely affecting our ability to rely on the generally accepted OIG standards of independence and confidentiality. In addition, there have been several breaches of confidentiality of OIG records or proceedings. I believe additional amendments to the OIG law will be necessary to authorize the inspector general to maintain appropriate confidentiality and to impose penalties for breach of confidentiality.

I look forward to completing OIG projects that are currently underway and working with you and the Director, Council Staff to help facilitate a smooth transition.

cc: Council Members
Director, Council Staff

